

On page 1, line 6, cancel "such".

On page 1, line 6, cancel "e.g.".

N.E. On page 1, line 8, insert --for example,-- after the ",".

On page 1, line 8, cancel "are" and substitute therefor --is--.

5 On page 1, line 9, insert a --,-- after "server".

On page 1, line 10, cancel "this" and substitute therefor --the--.

On page 1, line 16, insert --both-- after "direction".

On page 1, line 16, insert --and from-- after "to".

On page 1, line 17, cancel "and from the subscriber".

10 On page 1, line 21, insert --present-- before "invention".

On page 1, lines 21-22, cancel "based on the object of specifying" and substitute therefor --, therefore, directed to--.

On page 1, line 22, cancel "a" before "method".

15 On page 1, cancel lines 25-26 and substitute the following centered heading therefor:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1, before line 27, insert the following paragraphs:

--Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a ring network which includes: a central network element for feeding in data and for distributing both
20 working signals and protection signals on different transmission paths and in oppositely directed transmission directions, and wherein, proceeding from the central network element, the ring network is subdivided into a first part and a second part; a plurality of further network elements connected to subscribers for forwarding upstream data from the subscribers and for distributing the working signals to the
25 subscribers; wherein the central network element feeds the working signals into the first and second parts of the ring network; wherein the central network element, in accordance with portions of the working signals fed into the first and second parts of the ring network, feeds the working signals as protection signals into the respective other part of the ring network; and wherein the further network elements

forward the protection signals as far as the respective network element terminating the first and left-hand parts of the ring network, and the protection signals are fed into the respective other terminating network element of the first and second parts of the ring network and are forwarded counter to a transmission direction of the working signals to the central network element.

The present invention is further directed to a method for distributing data within a ring network for feeding in data and for distributing both working signals and protection signals on different transmission paths and in oppositely directed transmission directions and for forwarding data from subscribers and for distributing the working signals to the subscribers connected to network elements, the method including the steps of: subdividing the ring network into a first part and a second part; feeding the working signals into both the first and second parts of the ring network; feeding the working signals as protection signals into a respective other part of the ring network; forwarding the protection signals as far as the respective network element terminating the first and second parts of the ring network; feeding the protection signals into the respective other terminating network element of the first and second parts of the ring network; and forwarding the protection signals counter to a transmission direction of the working signals to the central network element.--

On page 1, line 27, ~~insert~~ --present-- before "invention".

On page 1, line 29, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "utilized".

On page 1, line 31, ~~insert~~ --present-- before "invention".

On page 2, ~~cancel~~ lines 1-8 and substitute the following therefor:

--Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent from, the following Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments and the Drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

On page 2, line 11, ~~cancel~~ the "," and substitute therefor a --;--.

On page 2, line 13, ~~insert~~ --teachings of the present-- after "the".

On page 2, line 14, ~~cancel~~ the "," and substitute therefor a --;--.

On page 2, line 16, ~~cancel~~ the “,” and substitute therefor a --;--.

On page 2, line 17, ~~cancel~~ the “,” and substitute therefor a --;--.

On page 2, line 20, ~~cancel~~ the “,” and substitute therefor a --;--.

On page 2, before line 25, ~~insert~~ the following centered heading:

5 **--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--**.

On page 2, line 33, ~~cancel~~ “are” and substitute therefor --is--.

On page 2a, line 1, ~~insert~~ --present-- before “invention”.

On page 3, line 1, ~~cancel~~ “In” and substitute therefor --First of all, in--.

On page 3, line 1, ~~insert~~ --of the present invention-- after “understanding”.

10 On page 3, lines 1-2, ~~cancel~~ “first of”.

On page 3, line 5, ~~cancel~~ “realization according to” and substitute therefor
--ring network which is known in--.

On page 3, line 10, ~~cancel~~ “are” and substitute therefor --is--.

On page 3, line 11, ~~cancel~~ “by means of” and substitute therefor --via--.

15 On page 3, line 12, ~~cancel~~ “are” and substitute therefor --is--.

On page 3, line 23, ~~cancel~~ “by” and substitute therefor --in--.

On page 3, line 27, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after “suitable”.

On page 3, line 28, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after “particular”.

On page 3, line 29, ~~cancel~~ the “,”.

20 On page 3, line 32, ~~cancel~~ “realise” and substitute therefor --achieve--.

On page 3, line 35, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after “is”.

On page 3, line 35, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after “case”.

On page 4, line 2, ~~insert~~ --present-- before “invention”.

On page 4, line 5, ~~cancel~~ “according to” and substitute therefor --of--.

25 On page 4, line 5, ~~insert~~ --present-- before “invention”.

On page 4, line 9, ~~cancel~~ “can”.

On page 4, line 9, ~~insert~~ --can-- after “also”.

On page 4, lines 14-15, ~~cancel~~ “In the case of the method according” and
substitute therefor --According--.

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On page 4, line 15, ~~insert~~ --method of the present-- before "invention".

On page 4, line 23, ~~cancel~~ "are" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --is--.

On page 5, line 2, ~~cancel~~ "figure" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --Figure--.

On page 5, line 6, ~~cancel~~ "also".

5 On page 5, line 8, ~~cancel~~ the ",".

On page 5, line 8, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "formed".

On page 5, line 9, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "example".

On page 5, line 13, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "OSO".

On page 5, line 30, ~~cancel~~ "there is".

10 On page 5, line 31, ~~insert~~ --there is-- before "also".

On page 6, line 20, ~~cancel~~ "by means of" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --via--.

On page 6, line 24, ~~cancel~~ the ",".

On page 6, line 24, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "case".

On page 6, line 26, ~~cancel~~ "by means of" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --via--.

15 On page 6, line 28, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "out".

On page 6, line 28, ~~cancel~~ "and".

On page 7, line 16, ~~cancel~~ "figure" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --Figure--.

On page 7, line 17, ~~cancel~~ "are" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --is--.

On page 7, line 22, ~~cancel~~ "figure" and ~~substitute~~ therefor --Figure--.

20 On page 7, line 29, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "signal".

On page 7, line 31, ~~insert~~ a --,-- after "signal".

On page 7, after line 34, ~~insert~~ the following paragraph:

A4 25 ~~Although~~ the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.